



**Lao Family Community, Inc.  
Milwaukee, WI**

<b>Project Title</b>	Seeds for Saving Project
<b>Contact Information</b>	Dorie Steffen 2331 West Vieau Place Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 385-3380
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$1,000,000
<b>Nonfederal Support</b>	\$1,000,000
<b>Project Period</b>	September 2004 – September 2009
<b>Highlights</b>	<p>The Seeds for Saving Project will offer 375 IDAs (75 in each of five years) to assist the hard-to-serve, low-income, limited-English refugees and refugee/citizens populations. The project will provide language-assisted IDA services, integrating them with other services to help low-income refugee/citizens sustain economic dependence through employment, education, and family support. The program will match IDA savings at a rate of at least \$2 to \$1 and will provide training and counseling through partner agencies. Participants may use their IDAs for home purchase or post-secondary education.</p> <p>Lao Family Community, Inc. plans to replicate successful strategies after the first year of the program through partnerships with bank branches and established refugee organizations in other Wisconsin communities.</p>
<b>Target Population</b>	Low-income, foreign-born residents of the 4-county Milwaukee, Wisconsin area.
<b>Grantee/Collaborative Description</b>	<p>Lao Family Community, Inc. (LFC) is refugee self-help organization, which was founded in 1981. Its mission is to assist Southeast Asian refugee families make a successful transition to life in their new country. In 1992, LFC broadened its mission to include low-income disadvantaged people, regardless of their country of origin. Over the past 5 years, the agency has opened 1,040 IDAs for Wisconsin's limited-English refugees with a completion rate of 90%. The agency serves as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site and provides bilingual Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) preparation help.</p> <p>LFC's financial institution partner for the IDA project is M&amp;I Bank.</p>